

# **Department of Natural Resources**

## **Law Enforcement Division**

### **Field Operations**

### **Weekly Report**

#### **May 17 – May 23, 2015**

This report is a broad sampling of events that have taken place in the past week, but does not include all actions taken by the Law Enforcement Division.

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## **Region I- Calhoun (Northwest)**

### **BARTOW COUNTY**

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sgt. Mike Barr, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Zack Hardy completed a three month investigation of illegal deer hunting at the request of Illinois DNR officers in Pike and Calhoun Counties. The officers interviewed several Bartow County residents. Hunters were found to be harvesting antlered bucks with doe tags and taking deer without a license in previous years. The officers located 2 Illinois bucks taken illegally. Charges will be made by Illinois DNR officers.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Byron Young responded to a call of a vessel floating in Allatoona Lake unoccupied near the mouth of Stamp Creek. Cpl. Young located the 16 foot Bass Tracker and determined that the vessel was reported stolen earlier in the week. RFC Zack Hardy answered the stolen boat call several days prior. Cpl. Young towed the vessel back to the DNR boathouse and RFC Hardy contacted the owner and returned the vessel.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Capt. Jeff Galloway, Cpl. Byron Young and RFC Zack Hardy responded to a boat incident call at the Navy recreation area on Allatoona Lake. A male operator of a PWC received a minor head injury after falling from his vessel. The male was checked by EMS personnel and transported to a local hospital for a precautionary check.

### **HARALSON COUNTY**

May 24<sup>th</sup>, Sgt. Ricky Dempsey and RFC Daniel Gray patrolled the Tallapoosa River. Multiple warnings were given for operating vessel w/o PFD's.

May 25<sup>th</sup>, RFC Daniel Gray patrolled at the Buchanan City Public Park. During the patrol Gray checked 7 people fishing and issued 1 citation for fishing w/o a fishing license. Sgt. Ricky Dempsey and RFC Chad Cox patrolled along the Tallapoosa River and at the Buchanan City Public Fishing Area. Rangers assisted two vessels with their boat registration and also had to assist with getting a stranded vessel on the lake to the shore.

### **CARROLL COUNTY**

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Eric Brown patrolled Snake Creek Reservoir where numerous subjects were checked. Five citations and multiple warnings were issued for fishing without a license, fishing without permission, littering, and possession of drug objects.

## **Region II- Gainesville (Northeast)**

### **FRANKLIN COUNTY**

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Craig Fulghum partnered with Craig Keese, from the Brian and Nathan Keese Water Safety Organization to cut the ribbon on a new Life Jacket loaner board project on Lake Hartwell. The ceremony began at 11:00 a.m. and Cpl. Fulghum and Lt. Col Jeff Weaver spoke at the opening. The Keese family brought the life jacket loaner program to light after the loss of their son and grandson, who drowned during a sudden storm on Stockton Lake in Missouri in 2010. Neither was wearing a life jacket. Determined to help others avoid a similar tragedy, the Keese family has become a powerful advocate for water safety. Many donors from the local area made this project happen and we are truly grateful for their support. Also in attendance from the Law Enforcement Division were Captain Mike England, Sgt. Stan Elrod, and Sgt. Greg Colson.



## **HART COUNTY**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, RFC Brandon Pierce and Cpl. Craig Fulghum completed a HIN inspection at Gum Branch Mega Ramp on Hartwell Lake for any boats with registration issues. A total of five boats were resolved of all registration issues.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, RFC Brandon Pierce and Sgt. Stan Elrod patrolled Hartwell Lake for the holiday weekend traffic. Numerous boats were checked for proper safety equipment. As a result, two citations were issued. The violations consisted of towing a skier with PWC without an observer on board. Later that evening the officers worked a boating incident. The victim suffered a prop cut to the leg while knee boarding. Victim is expected to make a full recovery but the boating incident is still under investigation.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Craig Fulghum and RFC Shane Sartor patrolled Lake Hartwell for boating violations. During their patrol six boating violations were documented. The violations consisted of Failure to obey Regulatory Markers and towing skier with pwc without observer on board.

## **MADISON COUNTY**

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, while patrolling the Broad River RFC Shane Sartor and RFC Brandon Pierce observed two females smoking what they believed to be marijuana from a small pipe. The subjects were questioned and they turned over the pipe and a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana to the officers. Both subjects were issued appearance citations and released.

## **RABUN COUNTY**

On May 22nd, RFC Chad Chambers and Rabun Co. Deputy Cody Sanders patrolled Lake Burton by boat. The officers checked several vessels this day and issued citations and warnings for registration violations, running light violations and operating without fire extinguishers.

On Saturday May 23rd while Corporal Derek Dillard and Rabun County Sheriff's Officer Cody Sanders were patrolling Lake Burton by boat they observed 3 young men smoking what appeared to be marijuana while they were sitting in the back of a boat. The boat was parked at a dock in the area of Cherokee Cove. Corporal Dillard and Officer Sanders pulled up to the back of the boat and announced themselves and one of the young men threw the smoking device into the lake. Upon further investigation, a marijuana grinder with what appeared to be marijuana in it was located where the subjects were sitting. The 3 subjects were arrested and charged with simple possession of marijuana less than one ounce.

On May 23rd, RFC Chambers and Rabun Co. Deputy Darrin Smith were patrolling Lake Rabun when they were called to the scene of an accident involving two PWC's (Jet skis). The PWC's were described by eye witnesses as being operated recklessly causing a collision. One operator, a male subject, received minor injuries and the other, a female, only received scratches. RFC Chambers interviewed the subjects and conducted field sobriety exercises. He determined that both operators were under the influence of alcohol and arrested them. They were both charged with Boating Under the Influence and Operating Without Registration.

## **UNION COUNTY**

On May 22nd, Corporal Kevin Dyer and Union County Deputy Sheriff Andrew Hammonds conducted a boat safety patrol on Nottely Lake. CPL Dyer and D/S Hammonds detected multiple boating violations and issued citations and warnings for allowing a child under the age of 13 to ride in a vessel without wearing a Personal Flotation Device, failure to provide a copy of renter agreement and allowing another to operate a vessel without complying with boating laws.

On May 23rd, Corporal Kevin Dyer and Union County Deputy Sheriff Andrew Hammonds conducted a boat safety patrol on Nottely Lake. CPL Dyer and D/S Hammonds detected multiple boating violations and issued citations and warnings for operating a vessel without a Personal Floatation Device, operating a vessel with insufficient amount of Personal Floatation Devices, operating a vessel without registration numbers displayed, riding the bow or gunnel of a vessel, towing a skier with a Personal Water Craft without a spotter, operating a vessel with an unserviceable fire extinguisher, operating a vessel with an expired registration, creating a wake in a no wake zone, operating a vessel with improper navigation lights during the hours of darkness and operating a Personal Water Craft within 100' of dock above idle speed. The officers encountered a high volume of boat traffic on Nottely Lake.

On May 24th, Corporal Kevin Dyer and Union County Deputy Sheriff Tom Mangifesta conducted a boat safety patrol on Nottely Lake. CPL Dyer and D/S Mangifesta detected multiple boating violations and issued citations and warnings for allowing a child under the age of 13 to ride in a vessel without wear a Personal Flotation Device, operating a vessel within 100' of a dock above idle speed, riding the bow or gunnel of a vessel and violation of the rules of the road. The officers encountered a high volume of boat traffic on Nottely Lake.

On May 25th, Corporal Kevin Dyer and Sgt. Steve Seitz patrolled Vogel State Park, Cooper Creek Wildlife Management Area and Lake Winfield Scott for boating and fishing violations. Multiple citations and warnings were issued for operating a kayak on Lake Trahlyta without a Personal Floatation Device, a non-resident fishing with a Georgia resident license and a non-resident fishing for trout with a Georgia resident trout license.

## **TOWNS COUNTY**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sgt. Steve Seitz, RFC Anne Britt, and Intern Holdan Kellar patrolled Lake Chatuge by boat. There was a high amount of boating traffic on the lake this day. During their boating safety patrol, the officers issued several warnings and citations for violations such as: Operating kayaks/paddle boards without life jackets, 100 foot rule violations, children under 13 not wearing life jackets, etc. Just before dark on this day, the officers noticed a pontoon boat with a large number of people on board coming toward the Hwy 76 Anderson Bridge. When the operator of the vessel saw the DNR patrol boat, he turned the vessel around and began operating the vessel on the wrong side of the lake. The officers stopped the vessel and conducted a safety check. The officers determined the vessel was overloaded by four people and the operator had been drinking alcohol. RFC Britt performed some standard field sobriety tests on the operator and he failed them. The operator was arrested for operating a vessel under the influence, violation of rules of the road, and operating an overloaded vessel.

## **HALL COUNTY**

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, RFC Eric Isom stopped a vehicle north bound on Interstate 985 suspected of Violation of Georgia Control Substance Act (VGSA). The driver of the vehicle was arrested and transported to Hall Co Detention Center for VGSA.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, RFC Eric Isom was on vessel patrol on Lake Lanier. Gwinnett County Police Officer Cpl. Larry Hurst was assisting on vessel patrol. During the patrol the following infractions were document with corrective measures, operating vessel without personal floatation device (pfd), operating vessel with insufficient pfd, riding on the bow/gunwale of a moving vessel, operating an overloaded vessel, failure to obey regulatory markers, and failure to display registration on a vessel. In addition, one subject was arrested for boating under the influence.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, at approximately 9:00pm hours Ranger First Class Mark Stephens and a Gwinnett County police Officer were patrolling Lake Sidney Lanier in Hall County near Shoal Creek. Officer Stephens observed a vessel being operated without any navigation lights on. Officer Stephens activated his emergency equipment in order to stop the vessel. The operator of the vessel was arrested for Boating under the influence of alcohol and for operating a vessel at night without navigation lights.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal Jason Roberson arrested one subject for Boating under the influence on Lake Lanier.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal Jason Roberson, RFC Kevin Goss, and Gwinnett PD Officer Mickey Westfall patrolled Lake Lanier for boating safety violations. The officers arrested two subjects for Boating under the influence.

#### **JACKSON COUNTY**

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Major Stephen Adams, RFC Mark Stephens, and RFC Eric Isom assisted the Georgia Bureau of Investigations and the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. The agencies were searching for a missing female near Hwy 124 in Braselton. RFC Isom utilized K9, Colt to clear an area near the incident location.

### **Region III- Thomson (East Central)**

#### **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Captain Mark Padgett and Cpl. Brian Hobbins responded to a possible boating incident. The subject was riding a PWC and fell off the craft near West Dam Park on Clarks Hill Lake. A ten day search has been conducted for the missing subject. Side scan sonar, Remote operated vessels (ROV), and surface searches by both vessel and land were performed. As of May the 27<sup>th</sup>, the subject has still not been located.

#### **LINCOLN COUNTY**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cpl. Ryan Swain and RFC Phillip Nelson arrested one subject for Operation of a Vessel while Under the Influence and allowing a person to ride the bow of a moving vessel. Other violations were documented during the patrol such as failure to obey regulatory markers, and improper registration.

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Ryan Swain and Ranger Michael Madden arrested one subject for Operation of a Vessel while under the Influence. The subject was transported and housed at the Lincoln County Detention Center.

#### **ELBERT/LINCOLN COUNTY**

During the course of the Memorial Day weekend Sgt. Brian Carter, Cpl. Mark Patterson, and RFC Tim Butler patrolled Clarks Hill Lake by vessel. Numerous violations were documented including towing a skier without an observer, operating a vessel during hours of darkness without lights, operating a vessel without life jackets, and operating a vessel with improper lights.

#### **RICHMOND COUNTY**

On Memorial Day weekend Rangers Boswell, Matherly, and Billips patrolled the Savannah River in Richmond and Burke County. The Rangers worked complaints and boating safety violations. No boating under the influence charges were made, only minor violations were documented. Several designated drivers were checked operating for intoxicated individuals.

#### **LAKE OCONEE**

During the Memorial Holiday weekend DNR Officers wrote several violations on Lake Oconee including two Boating under the influence, towing skiers without observers, operating vessels with improper lights, operating vessels while overloaded, operating vessel with insufficient PFD's, failure to obey regulatory markers, and failure to obey the 100' violation on PWC. Rangers who patrolled Lake Oconee were SGT John Harwell, CPL Derrell Worth, CPL David Allen, RFC Richard Tanner, Ranger Jason Harrison and Ranger Daniel Schay.

## **Region IV- Macon (West Central)**

### **LAKE SINCLAIR**

On the evenings of May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, RFC Jeremy Reese taught a boating education class at Sinclair Marina. A total of 14 students were certified in boating education.

On the evenings of May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ranger Matt Johnson, RFC Jeremy Reese, Cpl. Lynn Stanford and Sgt. Bo Kelly patrolled Lake Sinclair. Dozens of boats were stopped for various violations. Verbal and written warnings were issued as well as several citations. Two boat operators were arrested for boating under the influence of alcohol and transported to the county jail.

## **Region V- Albany (Southwest)**

### **DOUGHERTY COUNTY**

On the afternoon of May 17<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Greg Wade and Ranger Eric White patrolled areas on Lake Worth for boating and fishing activities. While on patrol the officers observed a subject operating a vessel in a less safe manner at Cleve Cox landing. The officers made contact with the subject and determined that the operator of the vessel was intoxicated. He was arrested and charged with operating a vessel under the influence and transported to the Dougherty County Jail for booking.

### **CLAY COUNTY**

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, while patrolling Lake Walter F. George, Cpl. Steve Robinson and Ranger Quinn Fogle stopped a vessel for operating without navigation lights. During the stop the operator of the vessel was found to be impaired. He was arrested for boating under the influence and transported to the Clay County Sheriff's office.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, while patrolling Lake Walter F. George, Cpl. Steve Robinson and Ranger Quinn Fogle stopped a vessel and found the operator impaired. The operator was arrested for boating under the influence and transported to Clay County Sheriff's office.

### **DOOLY COUNTY**

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Clint Martin and Ranger Jesse Harrison were patrolling the Flint River when they observed a personal watercraft being operated during the hours of darkness. A vessel stop was conducted, and during the stop it was determined that the operator was under the influence of alcohol. The operator was placed under arrest and transported to the Dooly County Jail where he was cited for operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol, operating a PWC during the hours of darkness, and child endangerment.

### **CRISP COUNTY**

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Rangers Jesse Harrison and Jay Lewis were patrolling Lake Blackshear when they observed a vessel being operated without lights during the hours of darkness. A vessel stop was conducted, and during the stop it was determined that the operator was under the influence of alcohol. The operator was placed under arrest and transported to the Crisp County Jail where he was cited for operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol and operating vessel without lights during hours of darkness.

## **Region VI- Metter (Southeast)**

### **DODGE COUNTY**

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Allen Mills conducted a patrol at the Dodge County Public Fishing Area. Four vessels were inspected for safety equipment compliance and ten anglers were checked for license and creel compliance. One violation was documented for fishing without a wildlife management area license on a Public Fishing Area.

## **LAURENS COUNTY**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal Dan Stiles and Game Management Technician Bobby Sanders conducted a vessel patrol on the Oconee River assisted by Ranger First Class Allen Mills. Sixteen vessels were checked for registration and boating safety equipment compliance and seventeen anglers were checked for license and creel compliance. One violation for fishing without a license and one violation for fishing without license on person were documented.

## **WILCOX COUNTY**

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Corporal John A. Stokes and Ranger First Class Rodney Horne patrolled the Ocmulgee River from Half Moon landing to House Creek for boating safety and fishing violation. Three violations were documented for fishing without license, and one for operating without personal floatation device. Seventeen boats and twenty three anglers were checked.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal John A. Stokes and Ranger First Class Rodney Horne patrolled the Ocmulgee River from Half Moon landing to House creek for boating safety and fishing license compliance assisted by Sergeant James McLaughlin. Two violations where documented for operating without registrations and one for insufficient personnel floatation device. Eighteen boats and twenty one anglers were checked.

## **TELFair COUNTY**

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne was on a river patrol looking for fishing and boating safety violations on the Ocmulgee River in Telfair County with Corporal John Stokes and Sergeant James McLaughlin. The officers documented four violations for operating a vessel without registration and three violations for fishing without a license.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Rodney Horne was on a boat landing patrol looking for fishing and boating safety violations on the Ocmulgee River in Telfair County. RFC Horne documented three violations of residents fishing without a license and one nonresident fishing without a license.

## **CHARLTON COUNTY**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sergeant Patrick Dupree, Corporal Jason Shipes, Ranger Sam Williams, Ranger Daniel North, and Ranger Judd Sears conducted nighttime vessel patrols on the St. Mary's River from Trader's Hill to Colerain. Six vessels were encountered and all operators were in compliance with boating safety laws. While at Trader's Hill landing the officers encountered a parked vehicle with a suspected intoxicated person at the wheel. A Charlton Sheriff's deputy was contacted and the subject was safely transported to a nearby residence. A sober family member drove the vehicle home.

## **BERRIEN COUNTY**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, while on patrol at Paradise PFA, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey checked several fishermen and boaters. Violations documented were fishing on a PFA without a WMA license and operating a vessel w/o life jackets.

## **COOK COUNTY**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, while on patrol at Reed Bingham State Park, Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey documented a violation of allowing an underage child to ride in a moving vessel w/o wearing a life jacket. Also, while patrolling the Little River on the Cook/Colquitt line, Cpl. Daughtrey documented a violation of operating a vessel without life jackets.

## **COFFEE COUNTY**

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Tim Hutto and RFC Keith McDonald patrolled the Ocmulgee River from Red Bluff Landing to Rocky Hammock Landing, and access points to Flat Tub Wildlife Management Area. Violations were addressed for operating a vessel without registration, riding the bow of a vessel while under power, operating a vessel with insufficient life jackets, and illegal consumption of alcohol on a WMA.

## **SCREVEN COUNTY**

On Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Corporal Shaymus McNeely, Corporal Mike Wilcox, and Sergeant Don Dasher patrolled the Savannah River from Miller Lake to the Poor Robin area during the Memorial Day Holiday period. Several boats were checked for safety compliance. The officers also checked several people that were engaged in fishing. Violations for no life jackets, insufficient life jackets, no fire extinguisher on board, no throwable floatation device, violation of the 100' rule, and fishing without a license were documented. One boater was arrested for boating under the influence of alcohol.

## **EFFINGHAM COUNTY**

On May 17th, Ranger Jordan Crawford and Corporal Eddie Akins patrolled the Ogeechee River. 36 boats were checked with 11 violations documented. Violations included fishing without a license, operating a vessel without PFDs, and operating a vessel without registration.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015, Ranger Jordan Crawford and Corporal Eddie Akins patrolled the Savannah River. Several boats were checked with two violations documented. Violations included operating a vessel without PFDs and allowing someone to ride on the bow while operating a vessel.

## **BULLOCH COUNTY**

On Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Cpl. Eddie Akins responded to a call of fishing without permission. The landowner of the property stated that he was having problems in that area on a regular basis with people coming onto his property and littering and fishing. Investigation of the incident revealed that three people had walked from a public road onto private property and were fishing in the Ogeechee River. A violation for fishing without permission was documented against each of the fishermen.

## **TOOMBS COUNTY**

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen and Sergeant Jon Barnard patrolled the Altamaha River between Deen's Landing and Davis Landing. Several vessels and licenses were checked resulting in two violations for fishing without licenses.

## **APPLING COUNTY**

On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Ranger First Class Debbie Brannen checked landings along the Altamaha River. One violation was documented for operating a vessel without registration.

On the evening of May 23rd, Cpl. Altman, RFC Brannen, and Sgt. Barnard patrolled the Altamaha River from Carters Bight landing to Deen's Landing. Numerous vessels were stopped and checked, resulting in two warnings, one for Operating a Vessel with Unserviceable PFD, and another for Operating a Vessel with Expired Registration. Also one operator was screened for BUI.

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

On the night of May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Capt. Scott Klingel, Cpl. Kevin Joyce, and RFC Clint Jarriel worked a river landing detail on the Altamaha River. One vessel was checked and a violation for Operating a Vessel with Insufficient PFD's was documented.

## **Region VII- Brunswick (Coastal)**

### **CAMDEN COUNTY**

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Cpl. Chris Ridley was patrolling offshore Little Cumberland Island for illegal commercial shrimp activity. While watching six trawlers, Cpl. Ridley observed one of the trawlers to be inside state waters which are closed at this time. The trawler was over a quarter of a mile inside. The trawler was escorted back to shore where gear and licenses were checked. No seafood was on board and the Captain and two crew members were cited for using power-drawn nets in closed water.